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REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action of November 9, 2006, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 5-22, 24-28 and 30-41 are pending, of which claims 1, 22, and 27 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 5-22, 24-28 and 30-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0097331 (Cohen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,879,965 (Fung). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Cohen, Fung, nor any proper combination of Cohen and Fung describes or suggests the subject matter of independent claims 1, 22, and 27, as described more fully below.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of accessing electronic data from a communications system. The method includes establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user that is maintained by the host system, and determining if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user. The method also includes initiating a first communication session that is associated with the first account of the user between the client system and the host system over the connection. In addition, the method includes automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user.

The final Office Action recognizes that Cohen fails to describe or suggest automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user, as recited in independent claim 1. See final

Office Action of November 9, 2006 at page 4, lines 3-8. For this deficiency, the final Office

Action therefore relies on Fung. See final Office Action of November 9, 2006 at page 4, lines 9-

12. However, as with Cohen, Fung also fails to describe or suggest automatically initiating, over

the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional

communication sessions between the client system and the host system based on a determination

that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user,

the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more

additional accounts associated with the user.

Fung describes a central user account management system that stores a user's log-in

information for a variety of preferred Web sites that are remote from the central user account

management system. See Fung at col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 7, line 10 to col. 8, line 57. The

central user account management system also maintains a personalized start page for the user

that includes links to the user's preferred Web sites. See id. In response to the user's selection

of a particular link on the personalized start page, the central user account management system

transparently logs the user in to the Web site that corresponds to the selected link based on the

user's log-in information that is stored by the central user account management system. See id.

Notably, as described by Fung, the preferred Web sites for which the central user account

management system stores log-in information are remote from, and distinct from, the central user

account management system. That is to say, the Web sites for which the central user account

management system stores log-in information are not maintained by the central user account

management system. For example, Fung describes storing log-in information for such Web sites

as "Alta Vista, Yahoo!, autobytel.com, msn Hotmail, iwon, headhunter.net, Travelocity.com,

deja.com, Amazon.com, etc." Fung at col. 5, lines 13-15. Accordingly, Fung does not describe

or suggest one or more additional accounts associated with the user that are maintained by the

host system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, as described by Fung, the central user account management system only

performs the transparent log-in function for a preferred web site in response to user selection of a

link corresponding to the preferred web site:

> Once the user decides which destination Web site the user wants to
> login to, the user clicks on a link, based on link data **210**,

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> represented as the destination Web site's name on the user's start page **206**. The user's ID number and Web site choice **216** are then used, via link servlet **218** and data **212**, to retrieve user data and form data **214** from the database **122** . . . . The servlet **218** then dynamically creates and "fills-out" a completed login form **220** based on the user data and form data **214** . . . .

Fung at col. 7, lines 33-44 (emphasis added). That is to say, as described by Fung, user interaction is required to trigger the transparent log-in function. Accordingly, Fung does not describe or suggest <u>automatically initiating</u> one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Fung fails to remedy Cohen's failure to describe or suggest <u>automatically initiating</u>, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system based on a determination that one or more additional accounts <u>maintained by the host system</u> are associated with the user, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 2, 5-21, 28, and 30-41. Claims 22 and 27 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and do so in the context of a computer program product (claim 22) and an apparatus (claim 27). Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 22 and 27, as well as claims 24-26, which depend from claim 22.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the

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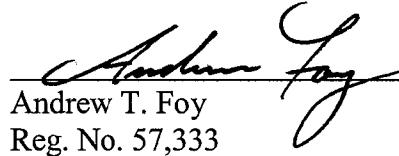Filed : April 26, 2001
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amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fees are believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 12, 2007

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